

Connecticut Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Providers (CANASP)

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

Regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget for Social Services

February 27, 2015

Dear Appropriation Committee Members:

I am submitting the attached testimony on behalf of a Danbury Meals on Wheels client and a family member of a Southbury Meals on Wheels recipient. Their letters testify to the fact that Meals on Wheels is "More than a Meal". In addition to providing a nutritious meal, Meals on Wheels is a lifeline for many of its recipients, also providing respite and peace of mind for their caregivers.

The Connecticut Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers, the 9 regional providers of Elderly Nutrition Programs (ENPs) throughout the state of Connecticut have been advocating for HB 6394; an act to increase Home Care Provider rates. Home Delivered meal rates prior to this year's 1% increase had not received an increase since 2007. While grateful for the increase, Elderly Nutrition Programs across the state need an additional \$581,844 to avoid deficit situations and maintain quality services.

The attached letters are a testament of the value the meals are for the state of CT. Both recipients would likely be in an extended care facility if it weren't for the nutritious meals and daily contact with the volunteer. The positive impact the meals have on the clients we serve and their families is priceless but well worth the less than \$10 per day needed to maintain CT's frailer senior citizen's health and independence.

The Meals on Wheels providers' thank you for your support for our programs and the elderly population we serve. We ask that you remember the small cost for big savings achieved through Meals on Wheels as you craft the next biennial budget. Thank you.

ANGELINA G. McKEOWN
7 JACKSON DRIVE
DANBURY, CT. 06811

FEBRUARY 2015

LISA LABONTE
NEW OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
232 NORTH ELIN STREET
WATERBURY CT. 06702

DEAR LISA,

I AM VERY INTERESTED IN GIVING MY TESTIMONY HOW MEALS ON WHEELS HAS BENEFITED THE QUALITY OF MY LIFE SINCE THE TIME I STARTED RECEIVING THIS SERVICE. AT 82 YRS OLD AND MY RECENT ILLNESS I'M NO LONGER ABLE TO SAFELY FUNCTION OUTSIDE MY HOME ALONE, OR ABLE TO AFFORD NUTRITIONAL MEALS SUCH AS MEALS ON WHEELS SERVES TO ITS CLIENTS. IN THE PAST I CONSTANTLY WAS CONCERNED HOW I WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET MY NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON MY LOW INCOME AND THE HIGH COST OF LIVING. MEALS ON WHEELS HAS BEEN A BLESSING FOR ME. THE DELIVERY PERSONS ARE KIND AND COURTEOUS INCLUDING OFFICE PERSONNEL I HAVE CONTACTED BY PHONE. ALL I CAN SAY IS GOD BLESS EVERYONE INVOLVED THAT PARTICIPATES IN THIS VERY VITAL SERVICE. SO PLEASE LET THE LEGISLATORS KNOW HOW VITAL

THE INCREASED FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF
THIS SERVICE IS FOR THE SICK AND ELDERLY.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Angelina A. McKeown

February 16, 2015

Lisa LaBonte, Director
New Opportunities, Inc
Senior Nutrition Services

Dear Lisa,

I wanted to take this time to thank each and every one at "Meals On Wheels", to those especially caring and friendly individuals that take their free time to visit my Mom each day. I must say she truly looks forward to these daily visits and meals. It is with heartfelt appreciation for each and every one of these individuals that take their time out to help others in need. This is one family that is so thankful for this much needed program

Mom refers to these volunteers as her "friends" that bring her food daily. One volunteer the other day went as far as to offer to get Mom's mail as they were concerned for her safety with all the snow on the ground. Can you imagine as a daughter how I must feel to know there are others who are caring and thoughtful enough to offer to do this for my Mom!

My family and I do not live local to Mom so to know there is an Extra Set of EYES on Mom that really do care, well there is a tremendous feeling of gratitude shared by my entire family. Just to know that when we can't be there for Mom that there is someone, if only a few moments each day is such a feeling of relief. Someone to brighten up her day and more importantly to know Mom has 2 nutritious meals a day and is safe. The fact that a "friend" has brought along with their smile her meals who could ask for more! This is one family that could not do without this wonderful program. "Meals on Wheels". I (we) commend you.

Hoping our Mom can continue to have her "friends" from "Meals on Wheels" deliver to her home (Mom had a stroke and no longer drives) a great meal with a friendly caring smile for as long as needed. We all thank you for offering such a wonderful program. My sisters and brother also can't thank you enough for being there for us. We are so fortunate to have you in the Southbury Ct area and offering this much needed service for those in need. "Meals on Wheels" we couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Vecsey
203 268-5219
151 Old Newtown Rd.
Monroe, CT 06468